

NEWS

U. S. May Aim to Make Enough Ammunition to Wear Its Guns Out | Social Activities of Posts and Navy Yards Told in Dispatches

There is very little prospect of any legislation for a government armor plant at the next session of Congress. The drift of sentiment of the country is in an entirely different direction.

The European war demonstrates clearly the vital importance of encouraging private concerns in the manufacture of munitions of war. It is this policy that has put Germany in an independent position, despite the fact that she is virtually cut off from all other countries that produce munitions. If Germany had not practically subsidized such concerns as Krupp and given her attention to the scientific development of her munition manufactures she would doubtless have been crushed by the allies before this.

Instead of discouraging private concerns in the manufacture of munitions, it is now being urged that something should be done at the close of the European war to keep the concerns that are now temporarily in the business permanently employed in producing war material. Just how this can be done it is difficult to see, unless this government lets contracts for large supplies of reserve material.

There is no doubt there is a shortage of artillery ammunition. The board of review, after considering all the reports on the subject, has recently decided that the supply of artillery ammunition should be equal to the life of the guns. That is, when a gun is built the government should provide it with enough ammunition to wear it out.

Conservative estimates place the life of a 3-inch field gun at 2,000 rounds, although this caliber gun has been known to fire 4,000 and 5,000 rounds. On this same basis 6-inch guns should fire 600 rounds, 8-inch guns 400 rounds, 10-inch guns 350 rounds, 12-inch guns 300 rounds, and 14-inch guns 250 rounds. No estimate has been made on 16-inch guns, but following the same method of estimating a 16-inch gun would be shorter lived.

According to the report of the board of review which will be submitted to Congress there will not only be a great shortage in ammunition for both coast and field artillery, but there is a shortage in field artillery guns, if this country is to be prepared for war with any first-class power. The country should, it is insisted, have field artillery for at least an army of 1,000,000 men.

Need More Field Guns.

The European war has fully demonstrated that there should be at least four field guns for every 1,000 rifles. The last report gives 613 pieces, which includes the guns of the army, the militia and in reserve. This is almost 200 short of the required number; of all calibers of field guns this country should have at least 800, which is the amount for an army of 1,000,000 men.

The estimated cost of the additional field guns, field artillery ammunition and coast artillery ammunition which the country should have if it is to arm itself on plans drawn up by the board of review is about \$425,000,000. This is a project which would keep the munition manufacturers that are now turning out material for the European armies busy for a number of years and would establish the business on a basis which would put the American concerns in position, almost if not quite, to monopolize the South American market.

Of course, Congress could not be expected to appropriate for this entire project at one session, but if it should adopt a policy like that of Germany, France and Austria, of appropriating so much annually, it would not only give the nation an adequate supply of reserve artillery and artillery ammunition, but would build up the munition factories so that in the event of war the country would be in a position to supply itself with artillery material. It would not then be like the allies, depending on other nations for munitions, and paying exorbitant prices for material of a doubtful character.

On the conservative basis fixed by the board of review, by which the government should keep on hand a sufficient supply of ammunition for the life of each gun, there is a dangerous shortage in both coast artillery and field artillery ammunition for the guns that have already been built. On an average basis of 2,000 rounds per gun, with the 613 guns now available there should be 1,226,000 rounds of ammunition.

The latest reports are to the effect that there is now on hand only 700,000 rounds of all kinds of field artillery ammunition, which is 526,000 rounds short of what the most conservative estimates fix as our necessary supply. Seven hundred thousand rounds of ammunition would not be a sufficient supply for the army and National Guard.

Army and Navy Notes.

The experts of this country who have to do with the development of aviation for the benefit of the military naval establishment are awaiting with unconcealed interest the results of the German activity in the employment of the Zeppelin. It is quite evident that there has been recently a renewal of the operations of the dirigible and it is surmised that what has been done in that direction represents the try-out of mechanism and the training of personnel. It is assumed also that the Germans have built a large number of these aerial vehicles, although nothing definite has come from any of the warning nations regarding the details, design, or extent of this construction.

The Germans have been building dirigibles since 1900 and it is understood that the cost of the Zeppelin in their country has been reduced to about \$400,000 as compared with double that sum or possibly a round \$1,000,000 which a

dirigible would cost if it were constructed in this country.

The dirigible that has been bought for the navy aviation service will be employed experimentally in the development of the type and in the training of the personnel in its operation, and it is possible that as a result of the performances abroad the dirigible will be regarded as of increased importance and as an indispensable ally of the aeroplane.

At all events, there is a chance that the army will next year take steps to acquire a dirigible on the strength of the achievements in Europe and as a sequel to the tests which are possible with the navy dirigibles. There is no avoiding the fact that aviation events in Europe will have a decided influence upon the design and construction, as well as upon the employment of aerial devices with the additional prospect that the dirigible is coming to be more of a factor than it has hitherto been regarded.

The prospects are that the cavalry equipment board will take some action as to modifying saddles. Neither of the new saddles issued to the army is satisfactory, and complaints are coming from the service which will receive serious consideration by the board. The chief objection to the new saddle is the jointed side bar, which is said to have proved to be a disappointment to even the officers who advocated its adoption. The attachment to the jointed side bars has had the effect of raising the rider too high above the horse. Some officers have described the sensation of riding on the new saddle as that of being mounted on a Cossack saddle. The side bars also increase the motion and make it impossible to maintain as firm a seat as on other types of saddle.

The side bars, it is insisted, have not proved to be easier on the horse, as was expected, and it is doubtful whether they will be continued by the new board. If they are, there must be some radical changes in their construction to make them satisfactory. A number of officers have advised that the board adopt the French saddle, which is regarded as superior to any other service saddle. It has been developed at the French riding schools after hundreds of years of experience, and it is insisted that it is doubtful whether any improvement can be made upon it.

A number of aviators at the Signal Corps Aviation School have recently made cross-country flights to various points of interest between San Diego and Los Angeles. On a number of these cross-country flights landings have been made in a very bad territory in order to repair some portion of the power plant. All repairs were made by the pilots, thus illustrating the thoroughness of the system of instruction at the Signal Corps Aviation School.

Each aviator student is required to be under instruction, both theoretical and practical, on the subjects of aeroplanes and motors. For example, the student is under personal and individual instruction at all times. A certain motor is turned over to this class and the aviation students must take it down, overhaul it, and put it together. It is then put on the block and tested. Finally, the students must pass a theoretical and practical examination on motors.

The last portion of the course in motor instruction consists of extensive practical work in trouble shooting. The instructor, when the class is not looking, tampers with the motor. The class then starts the motor and must find out the trouble. This is carried on until each student has individually had sufficient practice to demonstrate his ability to shoot trouble in the field. The instructor then takes the class through the same system. Certain aeroplanes are turned over for the purpose of instructing the aviation students. The class must take these all to pieces and set them up again. New surfaces are made and covered, and in general, the class must do everything that is to be done with respect to the building of an airplane.

An interesting experiment has been in progress under the military authorities in the Hawaiian Islands, being the organization and instruction of a provisional company of recruits in the Hawaiian Islands. Twenty-fifth Infantry at Schofield Barracks with a view to ascertaining to what extent and in what period it is possible to turn out well-instructed soldiers from the Hawaiian Islands. W. H. Carter, commanding the troops in the Hawaiian department, has forwarded this report to the War Department, with the remark that the results demonstrate that "with energetic work we can turn out in six months, and certainly in one year, well-instructed men fit to enter the service."

Gen. Carter also calls attention to the fact, which he says, is emphasized by the report of the board of officers that commented on the system, "that the commissioned officers in charge must be of exceptional energy and that a force of excellent noncommissioned officers, amounting to about 20 per cent of the organization, must be available for the purpose: a good corps—practically permanent—of noncommissioned officers is, therefore, the first desideratum." This experiment in Hawaii is much the same as that conducted in this country with provisional organizations of recruits in the infantry, cavalry, and field artillery arms, and the results are much the same.

The army quartermasters who have to do with the problem of suitable material for uniforms are now entertaining the hope that the difficulties which have been anticipated in that direction on account of the war in Europe may be successfully overcome or avoided. The trouble with the dyes, on account of the failure to obtain the chemicals from Germany, is understood to be adjusted, in part at least, by the development of the manufacture of that material in this country.

At all events, there appears to be no great difficulty in obtaining dyes from abroad, and it is surmised that there must be some method by which the Germans are able to export this material. The firms which have contracts for cloth for army uniforms are still delivering it of the shades required in the specifications, with the prospect that they will be able to continue the deliveries in the quantities required.

For the present, therefore, the quartermasters have postponed their recommendations regarding any change in the color of the cloth which will be used in army uniforms. If that subject is pursued to the extent of having any change suggested, it will be because some other color, olive drab is regarded as a contribution to concealment of the wearer.

There has been some hope entertained by the War Department officials that the military observers in the war zone would be able to send some information which would aid those who are considering this important subject; but little or nothing is coming from Europe regarding the color of uniforms or any of the numerous other details in which the military authorities are interested. Probably nothing will be done for the present, dependence being placed on the ability of the contractors to continue their deliveries on the chance that later on it will be possible to make a change in the color justified by the experience of those in the field in Europe.

French Grenade Throwers Bombing a German Trench

Hand bombs, grenades, aerial rockets and other short-range explosive devices have played an exceedingly important part in the fighting on the Franco-German front, where the trenches are very close.



Wireless and Strategy

In the opinion of Col. F. N. Maude, the well-known British writer on military subjects, as concerns the great operations of war when both armies are equally equipped with wireless communication, the net result is to "leave strategy exactly where the marvel of the modern use of the word involves as its essential problem the timing of many columns moving on different roads to converge on a selected battlefield."

Until Napoleon Bonaparte became Emperor in 1804 the idea hardly existed. In 1800 Napoleon sought to move six widely scattered army corps against the Austrians. Favored in the most surprising way by good fortune upon which he could not have counted, he captured 20,000 prisoners with one division of one of the six corps he could depend on. He had sought to march 21,000 across Europe, and as a matter of fact he had been able to bring into action at the decisive time only 20,000, a mistake which he concealed by high-sounding bulletins. This mistake, says Col. Maude, Napoleon never repeated.

A French officer twenty years ago discovered the change in the Napoleon strategy after the Ulm campaign, but the German general staff seems to Col. Maude to have been deceived by the Napoleonic bulletins and not to have noted that the great Corsican changed his plans after 1805 so as never to offer battle again without bringing a superiority of two or three men to one against the enemy.

"The Germans, coming to this change in the plans of the master of war, had gone on amplifying the original model long after Napoleon himself had scrapped the disastrous methods altogether. It is here that the question of reliable wireless communication comes in for the one thing against the success

of the Ulm scheme was the difficulty of maintaining rapid and trustworthy touch between the several maneuvering columns, as Von Moltke very nearly found out to his cost in 1870. The discovery of the French officer of the secret of Napoleon's plans caused the French staff to come to the conclusion that the weak point in the German system lay in the fact that it did not in any way dominate the adversary's will, whereas, reviving Napoleon's practice at its fullest development, it became apparent that the "Emperor never attempted a concentration for battle until by a preliminary attack he had inhibited the enemy's will and knew he could hold him for the time necessary to maneuver the rest of his army against the point of his own choice in numbers sufficient to deal the knock-out blow."

Whether the enemy attacked Napoleon or Napoleon attacked the enemy did not matter to the Emperor in the very least. Once his troops had fixed their claws in the enemy's flesh, the latter was powerless to divert the decision. Napoleon might elect to smash his adversary's left wing or his right, but until the decisive moment actually began only his director's brain knew where it was about to close, and once the "sawing in" became visible to the enemy distance alone made it impossible to concentrate sufficient fresh troops with which to meet it.

Neither aeroplanes nor wireless can save the enemy under these conditions. War becomes like playing chess on a open board; you can see exactly where every unit is, but until the player's fingers actually leave the piece on its new square you cannot tell for certain what move you will have to meet. It is this stamp of uncertainty which has hung over the German leadership ever since the beginning of the war of 1914-15.

Fort Myer Notes

Fort Myer, Va., Sept. 25.—Activities have been resumed with the return of the batteries from Tobyhanna, the cavalry from target practice and with all the families opening their homes for the winter. Headquarters and one battery of the Third Field Artillery from Tobyhanna arrived Monday afternoon, after a very hot and tedious march. The battery was to arrive Sunday, but was held over a day, through the efforts of Capt. W. Johnstone, of the Maryland Militia, to give an exhibition drill in Baltimore. Battery E, commanded by Capt. Clarence N. Jones, was dropped on the way up, at Gettysburg, to participate in the unveiling of a statue erected there to the Confederate general, Robert E. Lee. The artillery officers were extensively entertained by Capt. Cole, of the Bethlehem Steel Works and captain of the Artillery Militia of Pennsylvania, during their stay in Bethlehem.

Mrs. Menoher, wife of Col. Charles T. Menoher, and sons, Darrow, Charles and William, returned from Tobyhanna in their machine.

Mrs. Sheridan, wife of Lieut. Philip Sheridan, and little daughter, Corlena, have returned after spending the summer in Nonquit, Mass., as guests of Mrs. P. H. Sheridan.

Col. Jefferson R. Keen, M. C. president of the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States, was a visitor at the post last week. Edward T. Donnelly, son and daughter, Mr. Harry and Miss Flora Beswick, have returned from Tobyhanna and opened their home for the winter.

Col. Charles T. Menoher, Third Field Artillery, returned to the post recently, leaving his command at Lancaster,

Pa., to join a board at Rock Island Arsenal to examine cavalry saddles. Mrs. Robert M. Barton and her sister, Miss Aurelia Sharp, have returned from Ocean City, N. J., where they have spent the summer.

Capt. and Mrs. Charles T. Mortimer, who spent the summer as guests of Capt. and Mrs. John J. Kingman, at Charlottesville, Va., have taken the quarters formerly occupied by Capt. Fred H. Galt.

Mrs. Griffin, wife of Dr. G. E. Griffin, and Miss Martha Griffin have returned from Tobyhanna.

Capt. Duncan Elliott returned last week from New York. Mrs. Clarence N. Jones, with her daughter, has returned from Tobyhanna and opened her home for the winter.

Dr. J. Craig King has returned from a visit to friends in Philadelphia. Col. and Mrs. Charles T. Menoher have as their guest Mrs. Menoher's sister, Miss E. Menoher, of Asheville, N. C.

Gen. and Mrs. Hugh L. Scott have as their guests their son and daughter-in-law, Lieut. and Mrs. Walter J. Scott. Mrs. McMillan, wife of Dr. Clemens V. McMillan, and son Ambrose, have returned to the post after closing their summer cottage in Tobyhanna, Pa.

Capt. Duncan Elliott entertained at dinner on Friday evening. Mr. Joseph Glasgow, son of Maj. William J. Glasgow, and Mr. Darrow Menoher, son of Col. Charles T. Menoher, have entered Schuylkill Preparatory School.

Lieut. Timothy P. O'Keefe has as his guest his sister, Miss O'Keefe, and Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Helmers, of Kansas City, Mo.

Mrs. Edward T. Donnelly, Miss Flora Beswick, Mrs. Clemens V. McMillan, son Ambrose and Harry Beswick, on Saturday motored to Baltimore to visit the artillery camp.

Miss Dorothy Simpson is here visiting her brother, Lieut. Bethel W. Simpson. Lieut. Charles L. Kilburn has taken the quarters formerly occupied by Lieut. George L. Morrison, resigned.

Mrs. George H. Paine and her mother, Mrs. Cameron, had as guest at luncheon Mrs. Charles T. Menoher and sons.

Miss Aurelia Sharp, sister of Mrs. Robert M. Barton, will leave shortly for her home in Nashville, Tenn.

Dan Hand, son of Capt. Daniel W. Hand and guest of Col. and Mrs. Charles T. Menoher, has left for Annapolis and will enter on Tuesday.

Mrs. Paine will leave shortly for Gettysburg, to join her husband, Lieut. George H. Paine.

Mrs. Sturges, wife of Capt. Edward A. Sturges, has returned to the post after spending several months at Mystery Island, Mass., as guest of Mrs. James Wilder, of Honolulu.

Lieut. Pearson Menoher, who was visiting his parents, Col. and Mrs. Charles T. Menoher, received orders last week to join the Ninth Cavalry at Douglas, Ariz.

Lieuts. King and Thompson, Fifth Cavalry, and Lieuts. Dunn and Benken, Third Field Artillery, have reported here for duty.

Mrs. Edward A. Sturges has been hostess at a series of delightful auction parties.

Douglas McNair has joined his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. McNair, at 1833 Biltmore, Washington, after spending the summer as guest of Harry Beswick.

Mrs. William M. Connell will leave shortly for New York to visit Capt. Connell's family.

Mrs. Mommie M. Groninger is visiting relatives at Fort Royal, Va.

Capt. and Mrs. Francis W. Honeycutt and children were visitors at the post, and are now guests of Col. and Mrs. Harmon before leaving for the Philippines in October.

Mrs. Mack K. Cunningham had as her guest last week Miss Hepburn, of Washington, D. C.

The troops of the Fifth Cavalry, under command of Col. Wilber E. Wilder, and Battery F, Third Field Artillery, under Col. Charles T. Menoher, will give an exhibition drill for the veterans during G. A. R. week.

Annapolis Notes

Annapolis, Md., Sept. 25.—Capt. Edward W. Eberle succeeded Rear Admiral W. F. Fullam as superintendent of the Naval Academy on Monday morning, and at the same time the majority of ranking officers at the institution and others severed their connection with it. The change of administration was without ceremony, except that a salute of thirteen guns was fired as Admiral Fullam's pennant dropped from the mast of the Reina Mercedes, the station ship, and Capt. Eberle's was hoisted up in its place.

The formal change took place in the administration building. Admiral Fullam, handing over the charge of affairs to Capt. Eberle. At the same time Lieut. M. E. Manley, who has been Admiral Fullam's aid and who goes with him to duty with the Pacific Reserve Fleet, was succeeded by Lieut. Comdr. Thomas R. Kurty. Comdr. Louis McC. Nulton has assumed the duty of commandant of midshipmen and head of the executive department. His senior assistant is Lieut. Comdr. Sinclair Gannon.

Among officers detached were: Capt. Lloyd H. Chandler, formerly head of the department of ordnance and gunnery and acting superintendent during the summer; Comdr. H. B. Price, head of the department of marine engineering and naval construction; Prof. Harry E. Smith, head of the department of mathematics; Comdr. J. T. Tompkins, head of the department of electrical engineering and physics; Comdr. C. F. Preston, head of the department of English; Comdr. P. A. Traut, head of the department of navigation; Lieut. Comdr. Chauncey Shackford, senior assistant to the commandant; Chaplain W. G. Cassard.

Comdr. W. W. Phelps was detached as head of the department of seamanship and commandant of the station ship early in the summer. Chaplain Sydney K. Evans has been ordered to the Naval Academy in place of Chaplain Cassard, and Lieut. E. E. Smith has taken the place of Comdr. Sinclair Gannon as officer-in-charge of athletics.

There are a number of changes among the officers of the executive and other departments, and more are expected. For the first time in the annals of the Naval Academy, an officer of the United States Marine Corps has been given staff duty at the institution—Maj. John H. Russell, U. S. M. C. It has not yet developed what will be his position. It is suggested that he will be one of the drill officers of the regiment of midshipmen.

West Point Notes

West Point, N. Y., Sept. 25.—Mrs. Chester Harding, wife of Col. Harding, C. E., and Mrs. Glade, have good-bye to the post the end of this week.

Lieut. and Mrs. Hughes' guests recently were Mrs. Hughes' brother-in-law and sister, and Mrs. Hugh B. Rowland, of Washington.

Gen. Dunwoody, of Washington, is the guest of his son and daughter-in-law, Capt. and Mrs. Dunwoody, for the next few days.

Miss Marian Townsley had a sewing bee on Wednesday for a number of young ladies of the post.

Anthony C. Addison, of Washington, is the son of Col. and Mrs. Wilcox for the week. Mr. Addison is an uncle of Mrs. Wilcox.

Mrs. Graham gave a cadet supper on Saturday for Miss Enriette Lewis, daughter of Col. Lewis, retired, of New Orleans. Other guests were Mrs. Stearns, Miss Rosalie Stearns, Miss Krayenbuhl, Cadets Moore, Woodward, Marcoe, Krayenbuhl, Ray Harrison.

Signal-Corps Notes

The Signal Corps company has turned in its khaki equipment and resumed the dress uniforms for the winter. The men have been sent to different classes for instruction in telegraphy and visual signalling, and it is hoped the armory instruction will prepare the men for the work next year. The inspector's report of the company this year was the best ever made, the only criticism adverse to the company being slowness in visual signalling.

Harnessing, saddling, laying and recovering field wire and promptness in formation, section and company drill, mounted work, condition of camp and tents, cleanliness of mess tent and kitchen—all received excellent reports and the inspector laid special stress on the riding and handling of the horses. The company is to turn out mounted for the G. A. R. parade on Wednesday.

An exhibit of Signal Corps equipment and the manner of handling it will be one of the features of the military parade on Wednesday morning at the Mill Street Armory December 6 and 7.

It is the desire of the commanding officer to recruit the company to 100 men as rapidly as possible, in order that "dead" ones will be dropped for the good of the company, and their places filled with men who are willing to devote one evening a week to the work.

Fifty-four men turned out for drill last Tuesday night, which shows the interest being taken in the work. A few "dead" ones will be dropped for the good of the company, and their places filled with men who are willing to devote one evening a week to the work.

M. MacLennan has been placed in charge of the telegraph and two-arm semaphore classes, with Sergts. Johnson and Hall as instructors, and Lieut. G. M. Landis has charge of the heliograph, acetylene lamp and wig-wag classes, with Sergts. Lansford and Reed as instructors.

The company has been ordered to report at 7 a. m. Wednesday morning at the Fifth Street Armory, where horses will be assigned, and where they will form for the parade.

If present plans are carried out, every man in the company will be furnished with leather puttees at the company's expense.

The purchase of an electric iron by the Wig-wag Club makes it possible for every man in the outfit to keep his uniforms pressed and in good condition, and there is little excuse for any man turning out for drill with a crimp in his trousers.

Men who contemplate joining the company are welcome to visit the armory on Tuesday night, where they will be shown everything that goes to make up a Signal Corps outfit.

Fort Monroe Notes

Fort Monroe, Va., Sept. 25.—Complimentary to Miss Van Hoose, Mrs. F. E. Willford gave a theater party in Norfolk recently to see "Daddy Long-legs."

Lieut. and Mrs. T. I. Stearns, Mr. and Mrs. Woodhead, of California, were dinner guests of Capt. Conger on the Delaware recently.

Mrs. C. R. Alley gave a luncheon recently at the Lorraine in Norfolk for Miss Van Hoose.

Capt. and Mrs. W. C. Baker gave a dinner recently for Mrs. Stearns, Mrs. Bradley, Capt. Austin, and Col. Todd.

Mrs. R. S. Dodson gave a bridge party recently for Miss Van Hoose, Mrs. F. E. Willford's guest, and for Messdames Bradley, Toney, Alley, Willford, Gibson, Baker, Crain, Lincoln, Chapman, Clark and Pierce. Prices were set by Messdames F. E. Willford, Mrs. Dodson, and E. F. Toney.

Germans Carrying Booty Out of Burning Brest-Litovsk

When the Germans entered the Russian town of Brest-Litovsk after the Russian evacuation they found most of the town in flames. A lucky photographer secured this picture of the burning citadel, with the German troopers carrying out some of the booty.

